

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
Transcriber's Office  
FLOOR DEBATE

May 9, 2001

LB 833

the fact that here in Nebraska we all, our schools are good enough that all parents feel comfortable sending them to those schools. And I want it to continue to be that way. And we really need to do some things in order to make it continue to be that way. I noticed, you know, another aspect of this, for example, is gifted education. And you know this Legislature committed to put \$6 million into gifted education, two or three years ago. And you know we still haven't come through with that. We've only funded it at the \$3 million level, and we haven't done what we said we were going to do for that aspect of quality education. So it's not like we're following through with the commitments we made already. And I would hate to see a deterioration, a further deterioration of our efforts towards quality education by siphoning off money from this one well-structured program, which has not yet had an affect to play out completely. And siphoning money away from that before it has a chance to play out, when in fact we have the money, as Senator Bromm first suggested, in the Incentive Fund, which has more to do with innovations and distance education is the big innovation right now that we need for the rural schools. I hope we will continue to support the original Bromm idea and reject this amendment. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Beutler. Further debate on AM1850? Senator Suttle.

SENATOR SUTTLE: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the Legislature. I...I've looked carefully at both sides of this issue. And upon initial looking at it, it didn't strike me as making any difference to me one way or the other. But then listening to Senator Beutler and to Senator Raikes, I do believe that the QEIP part of the funds would be better served to those folks who are going the extra mile, to do the extra work, to get to qualify for these particular funds. This is not a small task we're asking these districts to do, and these teachers to do with the national certification and the extra effort that each student has to make. So at this point, I believe I prefer the original idea of Senator Bromm and would be, at this point, against the amendment and would urge you to vote no on the amendment, AM1850. Thank you, Mr. President.